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MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Emergency Fund Drawdown for Refugees, Returnees,
and Conflict Victims from Rwanda and Burundi

This memorandum recommends that the President authorize the use of up to \$30,000,000 from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (the Fund) for urgent and unforeseen needs of refugees, returnees, and conflict victims from Rwanda and Burundi.

Since April, over 2,000,000 Rwandan refugees have sought safety in neighboring countries. The continued outflow threatens regional stability. To date, relatively few Rwandans have returned from Zaire and refugees continue to arrive in Tanzania.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is coordinating basic emergency assistance to Rwandan and Burundi refugees throughout the region and estimates its needs during 1994 to be over \$300,000,000. Other international organizations also are playing a pivotal role in providing relief to refugees and require additional funding to continue their efforts. The World Food Program (WFP) is providing food aid to refugees and displaced persons. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing food and non-food relief to displaced persons in Rwanda and Burundi. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is working with local Red Cross societies in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire to distribute relief to refugees and displaced persons. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is providing transport to refugees in Zaire who wish to return to Rwanda. Also, many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are working with the refugees and require additional support from donor governments. A drawdown of \$30,000,000, the amount which Congress has appropriated specifically for the Rwanda/Burundi refugee relief crisis, is proposed to respond to the urgent requirements of international organizations and NGOs.

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The current balance of the Fund is \$55,299,633. Given the urgent need for funds to respond to the needs of Rwandan and Burundi refugees and displaced persons, the Department recommends that the entire \$30,000,000 appropriated by Congress be allocated at this time. After this drawdown, \$25,299,633 will remain in the Fund.

The President may draw against the Fund to meet "unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs" whenever he determines that it is "important to the national interest" to do so. The Department of State believes that the President is justified in authorizing up to \$30,000,000 from the Fund for the unexpected urgent life support needs of refugees, returnees, and conflict victims from Rwanda and Burundi. This drawdown furthers the U.S. national interest by providing humanitarian support where it is urgently needed and counters further regional instability.

The Department of State recommends that the President sign the attached Presidential Determination (Tab 1) and in so doing approve the attached Statement of Justification (Tab 2).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

for 
Kenneth C. Brill
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

Tab 1: Presidential Determination
Tab 2: Statement of Justification

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